

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An apparatus for using a plurality of processors to support a media conference, comprising:

5 a mixing processor operable to mix input media information associated with two or more first participants to generate output media information for communication to a second participant; and

10 a first media transformation processor coupled to the mixing processor, the first media transformation processor operable to receive the output media information from the mixing processor, to encode the output media information to generate an output data stream, and to communicate the output data stream to the second participant's end-user device.

15 2. The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising a second media transformation processor coupled to the mixing processor, the second media transformation processor operable to receive an input data stream from a first participant's end-user device, to decode the input data stream to generate input media information associated the first participant, and to communicate the input media information to the mixing processor.

20 3. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the first media transformation processor is further operable to receive an input data stream from the second participant's end-user device, to decode the input data stream to generate input media information associated the second participant, and to communicate the input media information to the mixing processor.

25 4. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the mixing processor is further operable to receive an input data stream from a first participant's end-user device and to decode the input data stream to generate input media information associated with  
30 the first participant.

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5. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the mixing processor and the first media transformation processor are separate integrated circuits.

6. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the mixing processor and the first media transformation processor are separate digital signal processors (DSPs).

7. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the media conference is a voice telephone conference and the media information is voice information.

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8. A method for using a plurality of processors to support a media conference, comprising:

mixing input media information associated with two or more first participants to generate output media information for communication to a second participant;

5 communicating the output media information from a mixing processor to a first media transformation processor;

encoding the output media information to generate an output data stream; and

communicating the output data stream from the first media transformation processor to the second participant's end-user device.

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9. The method of Claim 8, further comprising:

receiving at a second media transformation processor an input data stream from a first participant's end-user device;

15 decoding the input data stream to generate input media information associated with the first participant; and

communicating the input media information from the second media transformation processor to the mixing processor.

20 10. The method of Claim 8, further comprising:

receiving at the first media transformation processor an input data stream from the second participant's end-user device;

decoding the input data stream to generate input media information associated with the second participant;

25 communicating the input media information from the first media transformation processor to the mixing processor; and

mixing the input media information associated with the second participant with input media information from one or more other participants to generate output media information for communication to a first participant.

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5 11. The method of Claim 8, further comprising:  
receiving at the mixing processor an input data stream from a first  
participant's end-user device; and  
decoding the input data stream to generate input media information associated  
with the first participant.

12. The method of Claim 8, wherein the mixing processor and the first  
media transformation processor are separate integrated circuits.

10 13. The method of Claim 8, wherein the mixing processor and the first  
media transformation processor are separate digital signal processors (DSPs).

15 14. The method of Claim 8, wherein the media conference is a voice  
telephone conference and the media information is voice information.

15. A system resource management (SRM) module coupled to one or more media transformation processors and one or more mixing processors in a conferencing device, the SRM module operable to receive a request to support a media conference and, in response, to allocate the media conference to at least a first media transformation processor and a mixing processor, wherein the mixing processor mixes input media information associated with two or more participants in the media conference to generate output media information and the first media transformation processor encodes the output media information to generate an output data stream for communication to a participant in the media conference.

16. The SRM module of Claim 15, wherein:  
the SRM module is further operable to communicate to the mixing processor control information identifying the first media transformation processor; and  
the mixing processor uses the control information to communicate the output media information to the first media transformation processor.

17. The SRM module of Claim 15, wherein the SRM module is further operable to allocate the media conference to a second media transformation processor that decodes an input data stream received from a participant in the media conference to generate input media information.

18. The SRM module of Claim 17, wherein:  
the SRM module is further operable to communicate to the second media transformation processor control information identifying the mixing processor; and  
the second media transformation processor uses the control information to communicate the generated input media information to the mixing processor.

19. The SRM module of Claim 15, wherein the SRM module is further operable to store status information identifying the first media transformation processor and mixing processor supporting the media conference.

20. The SRM module of Claim 15, wherein the mixing processor and the first media transformation processor are separate integrated circuits.

21. The SRM module of Claim 15, wherein the mixing processor and the first media transformation processor are separate digital signal processors (DSPs).

22. The SRM module of Claim 15, wherein the media conference is a voice telephone conference and the media information is voice information.

23. Media conference migration software embodied in a computer-readable medium in a conferencing device, the conferencing device including one or more media transformation processors and one or more mixing processors, the media conference migration software operable to perform the following steps:

5 receiving a request to support a media conference;  
assigning a mixing processor a task of mixing input media information associated with two or more participants to generate output media information; and  
assigning a first media transformation processor a task of encoding the output media information to generate an output data stream for communication to a  
10 participant in the media conference.

24. The media conference migration software of Claim 23 further operable to perform the step of communicating to the mixing processor control information identifying the first media transformation processor, wherein the mixing processor  
15 uses the control information to communicate the output media information to the first media transformation processor.

25. The media conference migration software of Claim 23 further operable to perform the step of assigning a second media transformation processor a task of  
20 decoding an input data stream received from a participant in the media conference to generate input media information associated with the participant.

26. The media conference migration software of Claim 25 further operable to perform the step of communicating to the second media transformation processor  
25 control information identify the mixing processor, wherein the second media transformation processor uses the control information to communicate the generated input media information to the mixing processor.

27. The media conference migration software of Claim 23 further operable to perform the step of storing status information identifying the tasks assigned to the  
30 first media transformation processor and the mixing processor.

28. The media conference migration software of Claim 23, wherein the mixing processor and the first media transformation processor are separate integrated circuits.

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29. The media conference migration software of Claim 23, wherein the mixing processor and the first media transformation processor are separate digital signal processors (DSPs).

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30. The media conference migration software of Claim 23, wherein the media conference is a voice telephone conference and the media information is voice information.



31. A system for using a plurality of processors to support a media conference, comprising:

a plurality of end-user devices coupled to a data network and operable to generate input media information, to encode the input media information to generate input data streams, and to communicate the input data streams using the data network;

a conferencing device coupled to the data network, the conferencing device comprising two or more processors operable to decode the input data streams to generate the input media information, to mix the input media information to generate output media information, and to encode the output media information to generate output data streams; and

wherein the end-user devices are further operable to receive the output data streams and to decode the output data streams to generate output media information.

32. The system of Claim 31, wherein the conferencing device comprises:

a mixing processor operable to mix the input media information to generate the output media information; and

one or more media transformation processors operable to encode the output media information to generate the output data streams.

33. The system of Claim 31, wherein the conferencing device comprises:

one or more media transformation processors operable to decode the input data streams to generate the input media information; and

a mixing processor operable to mix the input media information to generate the output media information.

34. The system of Claim 31, wherein the conferencing device is further

operable to identify a coding standard used by a participant's end-user device to encode input media information and to encode output media information for communication to the participant's end-user device using the identified coding standard.

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35. The system of Claim 31, wherein the processors are separate integrated circuits.

36. The system of Claim 31, wherein the processors are separate digital signal processors (DSPs).

37. The system of Claim 31, wherein the media conference is a voice telephone conference and the media information is voice information.

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